RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

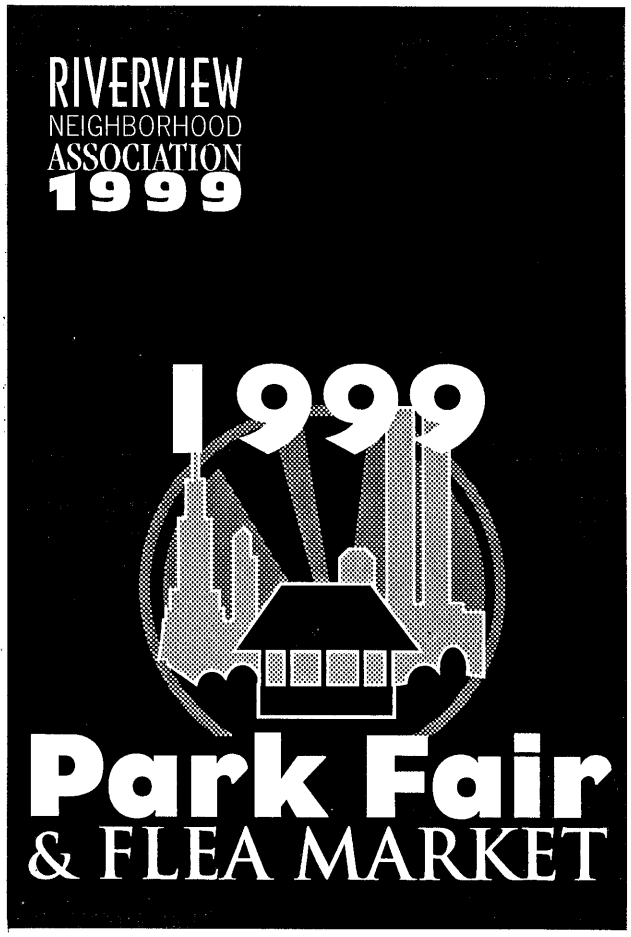
RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

May, 1999

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

RNA'S 15th ANNUAL PARK FAIR & FLEA MARKET SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1999



Attention: friends, neighbors, park lovers, browers, and flea marketeers! This year RNA will hold its eagerly anticipated springtime event in our neighborhood on **Saturday, June 5th** between the hours of **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** in **Riverview-Fisk Park**. (The raindate is the following Saturday, June 12th). The Activities Committee is planning to expand the scope of our traditional day in the Park by adding crafters to our usual vendors and also different types of food vendors. We are also planning to have music and hopefuly entertainment for the youngsters.

In order to make this all happen successfully, RNA needs you! We need volunteers to organize the details before the event and then more importantly to help out during the day itself with such activities as: setting-up and breaking-down, working the RNA tables and cleaning up during and after the event. If you can give any time on June 5th - even one hour - we hope you will sign up now.

In addition, we are looking for bakers to make homemade cakes, pies, brownies or cupcakes for the RNA Coffee Table. If you have an usable item that you no longer want - that is in decent shape and in working order - consider donating it to the RNA Donations Table. We also accept used clothing in good condition.

This year we are going to work with the Harbor View Health Care Facility to bring some of their residents to the Park to enjoy the day's festivities. Therefore we are looking for individuals interested in accompanying some of our senior citizens for a few hours through the Park.

People interested in volunteering for any of the above activities, should come to the May11th meeting or call **Maria Tuzzo** at **659-2245** after 6PM.

This year RNA has commissioned a special T-Shirt for the event which will be given to all volunteers and then sold separately at a reasonable price. The artwork for the shirt displayed at the top of this page was designed by **Pam Shaw.**

[The Vendor's Contract and more information for this event is available on page 2.)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AS GUEST SPEAKER

Robert C. Janiszewski, the Executive of Hudson County, will be the quest speaker at our May 11th meeting. Issues of local concern to be discussed include:

a) the need for a clearly identified pedestrian access across Paterson Plank Road from Holland Street and the coordination with Jersey City for the successful renovation of Holland Street;

b) the reinstallation of rail lines instead of a proposal for a four lane highway in the Bergen Arches;

c) the problem with the proliferation of jitney buses along Palisade Avenue; and

d) assistance for the development of cultural programming in our local Riverview-Fisk Park.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL RNA PARK FAIR/FLEA MARKET
VENDOR CONTRACT

SPONSOR: RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1999
(RAINDATE: JUNE 12, 1999

LOCATION: RIVERVIEW – FISK PARK
Ogden & Palisade Avenues, between Griffith & Bowers Streets,
JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS

TIME: 9:00 am – 4:00 PM (Dealers may arrive anytime after 7:00 AM)

RATE: **$20.00 PER SPACE** when paid in advance
$25.00 PER SPACE if paid on day of event
(MEMBERS: $15.00 AND $20.00 per space accordingly)

RULES:

1) Vendors must supply their own tables and chairs.
2) Position of spaces on day of event will be on a first come, first serve basis.
3) Food can only be sold by authorized food vendors. No vendor will sell anything obscene or illegal. (See registration form below.)
4) **Vendors must clean-up their spaces at the end of the day. Vendors cannot leave unsold or leftover items in the Park.**
5) Vendors will be allowed to unload and load their vehicles at the site, but **auto access to Ogden Avenue will cease at 9:00 AM**.
6) These rules will be strictly enforced by RNA on the day of the event.
7) Reservations must be postmarked no later than May 29, 1999.

ADVERTISING: RNA will advertise in the Jersey Journal, the Jersey Reporter and by posters and flyers.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL: **MARIA TUZZO (201) 659-2245.**

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PARK FAIR
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1999
TIME: 9 AM TO 4 PM
PLACE: RIVERVIEW – FISK PARK
(RAINDATE: JUNE 12, 1999)

PLEASE RESERVE: _____
(Circle one)

SPACES $20.00 Non-members per space
SPACES $15.00 Members per space

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

Telephone No.:_____

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. Cut out this application and send to: **MARIA TUZZO, 170 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307**

FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVES

RNA is sponsoring a springtime drive for food and clothing. We are looking for canned and non-perishable food items to be donated to **St. Lucy's Shelter** on Grove and 15th Streets. Donated food items can be brought to the May 11th meeting or contact **Maria Tuzzo** at **659-2245** to arrange for a drop-off.

RNA is also sponsoring a drive for baby clothing (up to 24 months), diapers and toiletry items such as powder and baby oil. New items only. All donations will be given to the **Hudson Cradle**, a shelter for housing babies whose parents cannot take care of them. Bring donations to the May 11th meetings or contact **Valerie Rea** at **653-6916** for a drop-off.

On **Saturday, May 8th**, the United States Postal Service is sponsoring its own "**STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE**". The National Association of Letter Carriers with the support of the Expedited and Package Services of the USPS is having this food drive to help families in need. On that day, your local postal carrier will be collecting non-perishable food items. Please give generously and place your food donation by your mailbox.

MEETING MINUTES: April 13, 1999

The meeting was opened at 7:35 pm with the introduction of the new Executive Committee and announcing the implementation of a new meeting format.

COMMUNITY POLICING: **Sgt. Ruby** of the North District gave an update of the crime statistics for our area. He also informed the group that the NTF officers were going to be reassigned so that they would be working split shifts and would be on duty during the afternoon and early evening.

Sgt. Ruby discussed a series of recent burglaries in the area. He also indicated that the police intended to "beef up" patrols along Palisade Avenue because of an increase in gang activity and drug sales. He promised that the plan was to "nip it in the bud" before the summer season.

Sgt. Ruby then introduced our current **NTF Officers Chuck Lauziere** and **Paul Weidmueller** and two officers from the Narcotics squad, **Sgt McNally** and **Detective Logan** who took complaints and problems from the membership.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS:

Our area's new North-6 NID manager **Yavalier Rodriquez** was introduced. He has worked with the NID for almost three years and was transferred from District 1 on the western slope. He then took complaints about the following concerns:

1) the chronic problems of crime and sanitation at the intersection of New York Avenue and Griffith Street;

2) the lack of efficiency of the NID clean-up crews;

3) the business owners not doing a thorough job in cleaning up their sidewalk and curb; and

4) the lack of clean-up by both the City and the property owners on Ferry Street between Ogden and Palisade Avenues. Yavalier warned that summons would be issued to the tavern owner of the Little Ones Bar at this location if they did not "clean up their act."

The group welcomed back **Laura Petersen**, NID-7 manager. She then fielded several complaints, including:

a) the delivery of commercial flyers to properties that have posted the "No Advertisements" emblem in violation of the Jersey City Ordinance #99-023; and

b) the need for bi-lingual dog clean-up signs for our community.

Our newly hired park attendant, **Marshall Williams** was then introduced to the two managers in order to coordinate their schedules for the summer.

[These two NID Managers aided by CEO Carole Pasquale also provided the following status report:

1) undertaking a "warning blitz" to target Palisade Avenue properties that are chronically in a dirty and littered condition;

2) warnings have been given to identified violators that have dumped household trash in Riverview-Fisk Park's receptacles along Palisade Avenue and future violations will be immediately summoned;

3) the clean-up and erection of a cyclone fence to prevent future dumping in the abandoned garages located on Paterson Plank Road;

4) conducted a city-wide survey of street lighting in order to report faulty lighting to PSE&G; and

5) the demolition of boarded up buildings at 178-180 Webster Avenue.

They also indicated that their Shift hours will be changed to 11:30 AM to 7 PM for the coming summer.]

RNA was then asked about the status of the street change for Ogden Avenue between Bower and South Streets and the need for appropriate signage warning motorists of this change. [**Councilman Bill Gaughan** has indicated that the ordinance for this street change was going to be introduced at the next Council meeting.]

PARKING AUTHORITY:

Carmine Venezia is the Director of the Jersey City Parking Authority (PA). The first issue he discussed was the problems of cars illegally parking in bus stops along Palisade Avenue, especially during early morning and evening hours.

He stated that doing his job was not as easy as most people might think. He is not only up against citizens illegally parking their vehicles but local politicians who are trying to pander to their constituents and make complaints about his officers doing their job.

When asked why we do not see many scooter patrols along Palisade Avenue, Mr. Venezia stated it was because our area does not have metered parking. Therefore the scooters only patrol during street sweeping times. He also indicated that many of the cars parked on Palisade Avenue are probably out of towners or local residents from the other side of the City who are commuting to New York who park along our local streets. These commuters cannot park on Palisade Avenue in

the area of the Sgt Anthony community because they have initiated two hour zoned parking.

He stated that he is especially hard on people who park in front of fire hydrants and prefers to tow them away because the fine is greater than just a ticket. He promised to start painting maltese crosses in front of each hydrant on Palisade Avenue to alert emergency personnel of their location.

A local resident inquired about why he was ticketed for parking 10 feet from a corner on Ogden where there is a dead end and no cross traffic but yet vehicles parked in bus stops are not ticketed. Mr. Venezia said that his officers are sworn to uphold the parking laws but he hopes that they would use their judgment when issuing tickets and then issue them when the parked vehicle is posing a clear danger to pedestrians or other vehicles.

He also stated that parking meters should be installed on some sections of Palisade Avenue because the street is already zoned for them. He indicated that all that was necessary was for our local councilmen (Arnold Bettinger and Bill Gaughan) to present a resolution to the City Council to install the metered parking. Mr. Venezia promised that he would begin a survey to determine what percent of the vehicles along Palisade Avenue are actually owned by local residents and out of the towners. [RNA has asked Councilman Gaughan to arrange a meeting with Mr. Venezia to start the process of installing parking meters along Palisade Avenue.]

Meters should be used for local business areas to keep traffic moving. Mr. Venezia also indicated that permit parking should be used in the residential areas to preserve parking for the local residents. Permit parking would help alleviate our parking problems because only local residents in the zone could obtain these permits and all other motorists could only park in the area for two hours.

Vehicles with out of state license plates in our area is another big problem. Venezia asked that RNA report any such plate if it is seen in our neighborhood for an extended period of time.

He was questioned about what if any procedure the PA had when one of his officers witnesses a criminal act taking place. Venezia stated that the officer should report the incident to the PA dispatch who should then relay it to the Police for follow-up.

The PA telephone number for complaints is **653-6969**, and press #9. This number is good till 12 midnight. If there is an emergency, Mr. Venezia can be reached through his beeper **517-3367**, till midnight during the weekdays and till 5 pm on Saturdays.

CHRIST HOSPITAL: **Barbara Davey** of the Public Relations Department informed the meeting that the Hospital was initiating a change of management at their medical clinic at Ferry and Palisade. It would no longer be used as a teaching facility but instead it would be staffed by an independent physician group to service the community. The teaching program affiliated with UNJMD will end on June 30th.

The clinic presently operates Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5PM with Thursday till 7 PM. The Hospital does not schedule appointments for Saturday. Ms. Davey promised that the Hospital would notify RNA if there were any plans to enlarge these hours and discuss any potential for negative impact on our neighborhood.

Complaints about the Hospital employees using Ogden Avenue to park were addressed. At present, the employees are renting space in a private lot located at Ogden and Woods Place. It was noted that permit parking near the Hospital itself helped free up spaces for local residents. She also indicated that the clinic is mostly used by people within our zip code and on the average handles about 55 patients a day.

Local residents were invited to use the clinic by making an appointment for medical care. It was emphasized that the clinic is not for emergency care.

The clinic will make an effort to do a better clean-up along the perimeter of the property. Ms. Davey also volunteered to donate one week of proceeds from the Hospital's Thrift Shop to our May clean-up.

Ms. Davey was accompanied by **Karl Johnson**, VP of Development and **Judy Lacinak**, manager of the local facility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VP **Kevin Mahony** discussed the plans for the May 1st clean-up, which included numerous plantings in our two neighborhood parks and a sweep-up along Palisade Avenue. He announced that special T-shirts would be given out to all the people who volunteered and then invited to a cook-out for after the event. The clean-up would take place on Saturday morning between 8 AM and 12 noon.

Next, Treasurer **Beth D'Errico**, gave a financial report. The group approved three expenditures for the printing of the newsletter in November and December of 1998 and January, 1999 for a total of $223.20. There was also a vote approving the use of City grant money to pay for the T-shirts for the clean-up.

Secretary **Maria Tuzzo** gave an update of the plans for the upcoming Park Fair and Flea Market scheduled for June 5th. She asked for volunteers for all the activities during the day, including running the RNA and cake tables, accompanying the Harbor View residents to the Park, and making homemade baked goods. There was a discussion about making another set of T-shirts for the Park Fair, which would be given to all the volunteers and then sold separately at the event for a reasonable price.

Stephen Carr, of the Planning and Development Committee, gave an update on the plans for the renovation of Holland Street, specifically the reconsideration of the removal of the two staircases along the road. The group approved the preservation of the two staircases. [For further information, read the P&D report in "CommunityUpdate" following this article.]

The meeting ended with a reminder to contribute to our spring food and clothing drive.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

JOIN RNA

The annual membership dues of **$7.00** enables a local resident to vote on important issues in our community and receive our monthly newsletter. Our boundaries are Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.

COMMUNITYUPDATES:

REVISION OF THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN: Jersey City's Planning Department is holding a series of public meetings throughout the City to discuss their plans to revise the municipal zoning code. The meeting for the Heights area (which will include our community on Ogden and Palisade Avenues) will take place on **Wednesday, May 5, 1999** at **P.S. #28** starting at **6PM.** All concerned individuals are urged to attend this meeting to make their concerns and suggestions part of the public record.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: At the April 13th meeting, the Committee presented several recommendations for the renovation of **Holland Street.** A vote was taken for the preservation of the two staircases and passed by a majority. [The upper staircase in question provides access between Riverview-Fisk Park and Holland Street and the lower one provides access between Holland Street and Paterson Plank Road.] This was a reversal of the Association's former position. **John Mucha**, the City Engineer, has been notified of RNA's new position. Mr. Mucha informed us that design ideas are in the works for he ornamental iron that will be installed on the upper stairs.

The Committee also received revised plans from the City's Planning Office fro the construction of the three 2-family houses at **346-352 Ogden Avenue.** All of the revisions agreed to by the developer were represented in the new plans. **Michelle Alanso** of the Planning Office was notified the following week that the various local neighbors approved of the plans with the exception of the pattern of the siding on the buildings' gabble end. a shingle pattern more in keeping with the historic nature of the nearby houses was recommended.

[If you would like more information about the above projects, inform us about another local project, or like to get involved with this committee, come to the May meeting.) **Stephen Carr**

CLIFF ROAD RENOVATIONS: City Engineer **John Mucha** has asked **PSE& G** to review the existing lighting system on **Holland Street**, including the need to relocate any utility poles because of the planned renovation, the installation of lighting under the Ogden Avenue arch bridge and the installation of vandal resistant guards to all existing fixtures.

Mr. Mucha has also requested **Green Construction Company**, who has been doing the the renovation project on **Mountain Road** to resume work and complete the following items: sidewalk, fencing, beam guide rail and bituminous treated stone slope protection. In addition, the Engineering Division has finalized plans for a new reinforced earth retaining wall to replace the original walls and lower level underground storage rooms located below the road that must be demolished. The Division is also securing funding for this additional work.

FILM PRODUCTION: **44th Street Films**, a New York based film company, has been shooting their independent feature film in and around our neighborhood during the month of April. They shot several days of interiors in a residential apartment on Ogden and Cuneo Place during the third week of April and will return for more shooting at this same location at the beginning of May. They also did two days of exteriors in Riverview-Fisk Park during the weekend of April 22nd at the children's playground and the basketball court. The film tentatively titled "Double Parked", is about a single mother employed as a meter maid.

The film crew has been sensitive to our parking situation and has not created any problems during their schedule. They have also generously made a donation to RNA for the neighborhood. Special thanks to **Jimmy Price**, their location manager for coordinating this production.

CIRCLE OF GREEN ART AUCTION: RNA has been a member of this fundraising effort to raise funds for the greening our community parks and gardens. This year's share of the fundraising was $37.11, which brings our total share to $454.00 for four years since 1995. The other members include: Friends of Van Vorst Park, Historic Paulus Hook NA, Liberty State Park Conservancy, Wm. Mercado Memorial garden, Garden Pre-School Coop, Van Vorst Alliance and the grace Van Vorst Church.

LOCAL GARDENERS

All people interested in reserving a plot in the community garden or volunteering to cultivate annual and perennial plantings in the three flower gardens in Riverview-Fisk Park, should come to the May 11th meeting and sign up now. Anyone interested in organizing a new community garden for Janet Moore Park (located at the corner of Ogden and Cuneo) this spring should come to this meeting.

SHAKESPEARE in the PARK

The Hudson Shakespeare Company has agreed to perform four of their current repertory in Riverview-Fisk Park this summer. The performances will include:

1) **The Beggar's Opera**: Saturday, July 10, 2PM,
2) **Couples of Shakespeare**, Sat. July 24, 2 PM,
3) **Taming of the Shrew**, Sat. August 21, 2PM.

The fourth performance, sponsored by the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, will be **Julius Caesar** scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at 6PM.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Tell us what you think about what you just read in this newsletter? Are you satisfied with the quality of life on your block? Send articles, comments or recipes to 232 Ogden Ave. The deadline is **Friday, May 22nd.**

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: Stephen Carr, Alison Ferrari-Fontana, Kevin Mahony, Patrick Moore, Jack Rea, Madeline Rea, Valerie Rea, Maria Tuzzo
CIRCULATION: Beth D'Errico, Jack Rea, Maria Tuzzo

Bulletin board

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1) Neighborhood Improvement District: **To leave a message on voice mail, call 547-4974 and**

a) **Ext. 8015 for North-6 Mgr. Yavalier Rodriquez** (Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith St.)

b) **Ext. 8021 for North-7 Mgr. Laura Petersen** (Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith to Congress Streets.) or

c) **Ext. 8052 for Heights Mgr. John Mateo.**

2) PSEG LIGHTING: To report a non-functioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call **Pete Magin, PSEG street light manager at 330-6572** and leave a message with exact location of problem.

MAY

May is a wonderful month,
We celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day,
Even my birthday is in May, on the 11th,
Lilies of the Valley bloom
It is a picturesque time of the year.
Happy Mother's day!

Madeline Rea

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Focaccia (or Italian flat bread)

INGREDIENTS:

1 oz (30 g) fresh brewer's yeast
3/4 cup (6 fl oz/180 ml) lukewarm milk
3 cups (12 oz/350 g) all purpose flour
1 tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary
salt
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
6 oz (180 g) shelled walnuts, very finely chopped
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced

1) Dissolve yeast in milk. Heap flour in mound on a board and make well in center. Add rosemary, milk, yeast, salt and 2 tbsp. of oil. Knead into a soft, smooth dough. When kneading is almost finished, add walnuts and knead to mix thoroughly.
2) Shape dough into ball and set aside to rise in warm place until dough has doubled in volume.
3) Fry onions in the remaining oil over low heat until translucent.
4) Punch down ball of dough. Roll into a circle of 8 inch diameter and 1/2 inch thick on a floured working surface. Leave to rise in floured tart pan for about 30 minutes.
5) Cover dough with the onion. Bake in preheated 400 degree oven for about 25 minutes. Allow to cool before serving.

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force** (NTF) **Police Officers** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity through the North District's Community Service voice mail at **547-5719** or through the front desk at **547-5350**. When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message. For emergencies, call **547-5477** or **911**.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit** at **547-5391** or beeper at **502-9131**. All calls will be strictly confidential.

PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY

Members of the Public Safety Committee have compiled the following survey to gather statistics about the most pressing problems in our neighborhood. The results of this survey will help city officials better understand how to improve our neighborhood. Please check off the specific problems you think are affecting your quality of life. Then detach and mail to **RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, J.C., N.J. 07307** or bring it to the next meeting. The results will then be compiled and submitted to the police and the City for evaluation.

SURVEY OF CHRONIC PROBLEMS AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

PROBLEM LOCATION/TIME

___ Abandoned Housing: _____
___ Alcohol Drinking: _____
___ Animal Littering: _____
___ Auto Thefts: _____
___ Building Code Violations: _____
___ Burglaries: _____
___ Dangerous Animals: _____
___ Disorderly Groups: _____
___ Gambling: _____
___ Narcotics Activity: _____
___ Noise: _____
___ Parking: _____
___ Prostitution: _____
___ Sanitation/Garbage Disposal: _____
___ Suspicious Activity: _____
___ Traffic: _____
___ Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: _____
___ Other: _____

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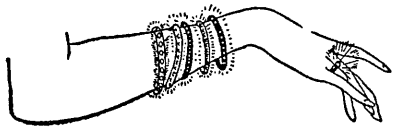

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See You at the next RNA meeting
on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 PM

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Kevin Mahony
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Beth D'Errico
Treasurer

Len Davis
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) GUEST SPEAKER:
   * ROBERT JANISZEWSKI, Executive of Hudson County
2) POLICE NTF REPORT
3) DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:
   * 15th Annual RNA PARK FAIR & Flea Market
   * Summer Activities, Special Events, Community Gardens
4) Food & Baby Clothing DRIVE

PARK FAIR & FLEA MARKET

Saturday, June 5th 9 AM - 4 PM
Riverview-Fisk Park
Ogden Avenue betw. Griffith & Bower St.

(See articles on pages one and two for more information.)